

Backflow Technician Certification

Rule 309-302 Summary

Summary

This rule covers the certification of Backflow Technicians.

Coverage

These rules shall apply to all personnel who are: a) directly involved with the administration or enforcement of a cross connection control program being administered by a drinking water system, b) testing, maintaining and/or repairing any backflow prevention assemblies and/or c) instructors of backflow technicians.

General

Backflow Technicians may be certified under one of three classes as follows:

Class I - Backflow Technician: This certificate will be issued to those individuals who are directly involved in administering a cross connection control program. These individuals may NOT test, maintain or repair any backflow prevention assembly. These individuals may conduct plan/design reviews, hazard assessment investigations, compliance inspections, and enforce local laws and codes.

Class II - Backflow Technician: This certificate will be issued to those individuals who meet the criteria for Class I and in addition having proven qualified and competent to test, maintain, and/or repair (see Section 5.3.3) backflow prevention assemblies by passing the practical examination.

Class III - Backflow Technician: This certificate will be issued to those individuals who meet the criteria for Class II and in addition have proven qualified and competent to instruct approved Backflow Technician Certification classes by participating in and passing an approved "Train The Trainers" course.

Certification Requirements

Those individuals seeking certification as a Backflow Technician must participate in an approved Technician's course of instruction and pass the examination required per class of certification. The issuance of a Backflow Technician certificate (Class I, II or III) does NOT authorize that individual to install or replace any backflow prevention assembly.

Examinations

To become certified or recertify under any of the classes an individual must successfully pass an examination administered by the Division of Drinking Water. If an individual fails an examination, he may file another application for reexamination on the next available test date. Oral examinations may be administered, with approval from the Cross Connection Control Commission, on a case-by-case basis. Class I, Class II and Class III Technician's must successfully complete a written exam with a score of 70% or higher. Class II Technician's must also successfully demonstrate competence and ability in the practical examination. Class III Technicians must participate in, and

pass, a "train the trainers" course, approved by the Cross Connection Control Subcommittee, in addition to the successful completion of the Class II Technician's certification course.

Certificates

Each Backflow Technician's certificate will expire December 31, three years from the year of issuance. The Backflow Technician's certificate may be renewed up to six months in advance of the expiration date. To renew a Technician's certificate, the Technician must register and participate in a backflow prevention renewal course, and pass the renewal examination. Should the applicant fail the renewal written examination his certificate will not be renewed. If the applicant fails to pass the test after three attempts, the applicant will be required to participate in an approved Backflow Technician's course before retaking the written and practical examinations. (Class I Technicians would only need to pass the written examination.)

Certification Revocation

A Backflow Technician's certification may be revoked for the following reasons: a) demonstrated disregard for public health, b) evidence of violation of the Plumber's Law which prohibits installation or replacement of assemblies, c) falsification of data or reports, d) evidence of a failure to report a failing backflow prevention assembly to the proper authorities, e) evidence of a failure to report a backflow incident to the proper authorities for which the technician had personal knowledge, f) evidence of a failure to report the change of the design, material or operational characteristics of a backflow prevention assembly to the proper authorities.

Appeal Procedures

Any individual who receives a notice of suspension or revocation may file an appeal, in writing, to the Executive Secretary of the Drinking Water Board.